

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:JMBSEHOAR: USSEC

APPROVED BY: EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

ATRICK:FAS

GSBROWN:FAS

GOFRASER:FAS

RJGOODMAN:FAS

REITER WEBB:FAS:FCA

DONALY NOVOTNY:FAS:G&F

AGRIC:ERBEVIS

EUR/SOV:RPARDON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TGEN, US

SUBJ: US-USSR AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION: SPRING

WHEAT TEAM

REF: (A) TOFAS 141 (B) STATE 132703

1. REF A PARA 6 NOTED LANE PALMER, EDITOR OF FARM JOURNAL, HAD WRITTEN TO RUNOV ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE TO SUGGEST HE BE INCLUDED IN SPRING WHEAT TEAM. FAS HAD CONSIDERED INCLUSION OF PALMER LAST YEAR, PALMER HAS FOLLOWED PLANS FOR EXCHANGES OF TEAMS THIS YEAR VERY CLOSELY AND CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN JOINING TEAM WHICH WILL GET INTO FIELD IN ASIAN USSR.

2. FAS SEES ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES TO INCLUSION OF PALMER. WITH WELL KNOWN JOURNALIST ACCOMPANYING TEAM, SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY BE RESPONSIVE ON REQUESTED ITINERARY. HOWEVER,FAS

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CONCERNED THAT SOVIETS MAY NOT RPT NOT BE AS FRANK AND OPEN WITH TEAM REGARDING EVALUATION OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE PROSPECTS IF PALMER INCLUDED. POSSIBLY HE COULD BE HANDLED IN SAME MANNER AS OSYCHKIN OF SELSKAYA ZHIZN WHO ACCOMPANIED SOVIET

JOINT COMMITTEE DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER. OSYCHKIN ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION IN FIELD AND ATTENDED FUNCTIONS BUT DID NOT RPT NOT SIT IN ON JOINT COMMITTEE SESSION. SEPARATE APPOINTMENTS WERE ARRANGED FOR HIM, MOSTLY BY GAVVA, WHILE JOINT COMMITTEE IN SESSION.

3. REQUEST RECOMMENDATION FROM AGATT ON INCLUSION OF PALMER AFTER CONSULTATION WITH SOVIETS ON WHETHER PRESENCE OF PALMER WOULD AFFECT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO TEAM. IF YOUR RECOMMENDATION IS POSITIVE, YOU MAY INFORM SOVIETS AT ONCE THAT PALMER IS OFFICIAL MEMBER OF DELEGATION AND THAT WE APPRECIATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ADD HIM TO TEAM.

4. AS NOTED REF B TEAM CONSISTS OF TRICK, SHAW AND MCDONALD. PALMER TO BE ADDED IF AGATT RECOMMENDS. KISSINGER

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